



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: April 8, 2004

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chairperson Phil Worby (QC Labs) called the meeting to order at 9:41 AM. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) stated that laboratories should carefully review their certification renewal applications line-by-line. Phil Worby (QC labs) asked a question about the category of Matrix on the ACPL for the SHW. It appears that a laboratory can be certified for either non-potable water (N-PW), solid and chemical materials (SCM) or both. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that laboratories should fill out discrepancy forms as needed when reviewing their ACPLs and to call OQA should questions arise.

Mildred Reyes (Chemtech) stated that the SHW codes are mixed up with other programs on the ACPL and the list is difficult to use. Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the reason for this was that the ACPL was sorted by matrix. The office will be looking into whether changes should be made.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) passed out an update from Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) about testing private and public, ocean and bay beaches. The monitoring parameter has changed from fecal coliform to enterococci. The required method is USEPA method 1600. If you have any questions on the Enterococcus 1600 method you should call Deb Waller. The update is attached to these minutes.

Phil Worby (QC labs) reported on a problem his lab was experiencing from clients who were being told by NJDEP enforcement officers that they didn't recognize their lab certification number, which starts with a PA# as a New Jersey certified laboratory. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that he should encourage those clients to call the OQA office for clarification.

Phil Worby (QC labs) reported on a problem with data receivers for compliance who don't understand the reportable value for the Dioxin screen on EPA Method 625. They are using inappropriate codes on their report submissions. (Code E, Code N) Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) said that she would talk to Bernie Wilk about this issue.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the PT samples for the SHW program will ship on April 26th and if your lab does not receive them by the first week of May

you need to contact the office. Ms. Werner stated that all of the PT Providers will be shipping samples out on the same date.

Ms. Werner stated that all parameters will be tested for, including 5 or 6 of the non-halogenated organic compounds. Only a few labs are testing these analytes. The office will not suspend any laboratories on the basis of their PT results and the testing is being done on an evaluation basis only. In the event of a failure, OQA would consider a visit to the laboratory to ensure that the test method is being performed properly.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the invoices for the WP PT study for June 2004 have gone out. The samples should ship by the middle of June. The samples will not be whole volume. Ms. Werner states that the DW PT results have been sent out. Letters will be sent out by April 23rd for the makeup study. Ms. Werner reported that the feedback about the PT roundtable was positive. The minutes from this meeting are on the website. The OQA office held a meeting with the PT Providers prior to the PT Roundtable to discuss the issues of homogeneity and stability. The minutes of this meeting has also been posted on the website.

Latish Menghani (VEL) asked if the results of the WP study can be used to fulfill DMRQA Study 24 requirements. Ms. Werner acknowledged that this can be done. .

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) warned laboratories to open their WP-PT study results envelope and review the report. APG was required to resend all laboratory reports. Ms. Werner said she was told by APG that an explanation would be included in the 2nd send out of results.

NELAC Update: Rachel Werner stated that the OQA office will be audited by NELAC in 2 weeks. This audit is scheduled to begin on April 19, 2004.

Bioassay: Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) stated that SETAC will hold it's annual conference on April 22-23, 2004. He stated you should call Betty Jane Boros-Russo if you need information.

Communications: No report

By-Laws: No report

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water/PWTA: Harvey Klein (GSL) requested confirmation that the field test kit for chlorine residual under certified analytical procedures is the DPD test kit. Mr. Klein asked for confirmation on whether free chlorine was the correct analysis to use for drinking water and requested the department to inform laboratories of the correct test to use.

Phil Worby (QC Labs) asked Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) about the need for sampling and analyzing HAAs with TTHMs. Mr. Worby indicated that many of his clients are unaware of this requirement. Ms. Bonnette stated that Linda Walsh (NJDEP) will be sending out an

FYI document to the Water Systems on this requirement for clarification. Mr. Worby requested that the laboratories also be included on this mailing list.

Site Remediation: No report.

New Business

GPS: Mark Ferko (OQA-NJDEP) reported that under the PWTa program there are 40 certified laboratories and 25 labs that are in the applied status. One major hurdle to certification under this program is to purchase GPS units and correctly utilize them. The department does not mandate a supplier but about 98% of the GPS units used are Trimble units. He stated that auditors will be looking for documentation and correct reporting of coordinates. Auditors will evaluate your coordinates by using your units or their own. The department is aware that labs can incorrectly utilize IMAP to record the coordinates. He stated that labs can use the IMAP as a way to evaluate their own coordinates. Diane Pupa (NJDEP-BSDW) stated that accuracy is an issue with 30-40% of the reported coordinates in the wrong county. Often the problem is simply inverted coordinates or exporting errors.

Meeting Topics: Phil Worby encourages individuals with ideas for extra meeting topics to forward this information to the committee.

Presentation on GPS Units, Usage and the PWTa: Mark Ferko (OQA-NJDEP) introduced Jonathan Cobb of the Waypoint Technology Group to discuss the proper use of GPS units. Jonathan Cobb gave an informative power-point presentation of the proper use of GPS units, which generated a discussion of GPS units under the PWTa program. Waypoint Technology Group provides training on their GPS units.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM on May 13, 2004 – 4th. Floor Conference Room.

NJDEP Notice: The DEP has revised current building security procedures to reflect actions that must be taken by employees and visitors at all times, as determined by the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. The change below will be implemented immediately:
All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.

See Attachment

Enterococci Update for the BEACH program

Revised 4/27/04

For all labs conducting testing for bacteria for ocean and bay beaches, the monitoring parameter has changed from fecal coliform to enterococci. This applies to private and public, ocean and bay beaches.

The required method is USEPA Method 1600. The most current version is from September 2002 (EPA 821-R-02-022). This is a 24 hour test using mEI agar. The agar is incubated at $41 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 hours (not 22-24). The holding time is 6 hours (not 8 hours).

Violations occur once the maximum of 104 colony forming units (cfu)/100mls of sample is found for any sample. Resampling must be done for the sites with counts over 104 cfu.

Dilutions should be run for the following situations:

1. To determine the expected density for new sources.
2. To strengthen data for samples that are a known legal, evidentiary sample (i.e. investigations for known spills).

The mEI agar commercially available is manufactured in loose fitting petri dishes. The method requires the use of tight fitting dishes. The commercial media is not approved for use at this time.

Verification is required:

1. On a monthly basis (10 positive colonies taken through the entire verification process).
2. To strengthen data for samples that are a known legal, evidentiary sample (i.e. investigations for known spills).

A chain of custody as a means of tracking the transfer of samples from collectors to the testing laboratories is required. The Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program (CCMP) plan will be revised to include this requirement.

Laboratories must obtain certification for Method 1600 before testing can be conducted for this monitoring season which begins in May 2004.

Contacts:

Certification issues: Deb Waller at debra.waller@dep.state.nj.us or 609-984-7732.

Monitoring and BEACH program related issues: Virginia Loftin, at virginia.loftin@dep.state.nj.us or 609-984-5599.